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**Commission:** Disarmament Committee  
**Position:** Deputy Chair  
**Issue:** Collective Responsibility regarding security of national arsenals when state governments can not (ie. Syria, Libya, ...)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Governments run Nations. One among the many things that Governments do is to secure it's sovereignty and protect physical safety of its people and borders, and be responsible for the physical, economic and social well being of it's citizens. All nations exist within the framework of international and inter governmental relations. Nations protect themselves by building their Defense capabilities. Key to making the Defense forces stronger and sharper is a stock pile of Arms and Ammunition. This includes a wide variety of arms - mainly nuclear, chemical strike capabilities of the 3 kinds of Armed Forces - the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Ideally the Defense Forces are meant to be protectors of nations. World Wars have been a result for of aggression and fight for power and resources.

Essentially the protection and stability of nations depends on the respective Governments. For a variety of reasons Governments that are not strong and effective sometimes face civil wars within it's borders and that leads to breakdown of the Governments and civil society as it is meant to exist. In that situation the stockpile of nations Arsenals a not protected and the stockpile of Arms - nuclear, chemical and biological are rarely secured. They are left open to rogue elements in the world - primarily rebels and terrorists. Given the connectivity in our planet today it is never a problem restricted to borders of the nation in question. The Arsenals can be used to destroy or create havoc in any part of the world. The ongoing conflict occurring is due to mismanagement of a highly sensitive yet extremely important aspect of a nation's military system.

## KEY TERMS DEFINED

**Collective Responsibility** - The concept or notion that governing bodies and/or institutions are responsible for the actions committed by individuals falling under their control. ie. Citizens of nations from nations such as Syria, Libya, Egypt etc.

**National Arsenal** – The quantity and quality of the availability of weapons and ammunitions present in a country.

**Security** – A state of being safe and free from danger. The state in which the countries above currently are not in.

**Syria** – Middle Eastern State currently in national and civil crisis, with civilians in danger and many forced to take refuge.

**Libya** – State in the Northern Africa, previously experiencing the crisis that Syria is currently facing, although to a varying extent.

**Arab Spring uprising** – The renowned uprisings that took place, and are currently taking place, in the Arab regions of the world, namely; the Middle East and Northern Africa.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)** - The definitional problem as far as the term “Weapons of Mass Destruction” (WMDs) is concerned remains an unsolved one. Adopting a definition has some serious consequences regarding the extent to which a country combats the acquisition and use of such weapons.

**Chemical Arsenal** – Weapons of Mass Destruction, of the chemical persuasion, fatal to civilians, and threatened to being detonated in mainland Syria.

**Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** - Organization Implemented following the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) in 1998, with the intention of preventing Chemical Weapons from being activated.

## **UNITED NATION'S PERSPECTIVE**

### **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**

The OPCW was founded in 1998, with the commitment of preventing the use of chemistry and chemical weaponry, to ever be used in warfare. The OPCW has been working vehemently on the current ongoing crisis. The OPCW operates under four primary provision and they are as follows;

- “ - destroying all existing chemical weapons under international verification by the OPCW;
- monitoring chemical industry to prevent new weapons from re-emerging;
- providing assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical threats; and
- fostering international cooperation to strengthen implementation of the Convention and promote the peaceful use of chemistry. “

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The IAEA was founded with a similar premise to the OPCW, to keep the world safe from nuclear destruction with the agency consistently monitoring and ensuring safety of nuclear and chemical weapons in various nations.

## **MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED**

### **Syria**

The location of the civil war, the conflict between the Syrian Armed forces and the people seeking to oust these forces and the national government. The president, Bashar al-Assad is witnessing his reign diminish as the influence of the civilians seem to be overwhelming. However, the Syrian government is insistent from a national perspective that ensuring the stability of the government is integral to rectifying the problem. If Syria is to fall to no leadership, the UN claims levels of violence is expected to rise heavily with even more civilian lives being taken away. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) defines itself as being the antithesis to Assad's

regime. However, if he is to be ousted, the reference point for what the FSA represents a loss in influence and power and must find another focus to stay relevant.

### **United States of America (USA)**

The United States of America feels very strongly about the Syrian Civil War, with president Barack Obama, several times calling for Assad's resignation. The United States announced that there is definitive proof that the Assad government has used limited amounts of chemical weapons on multiple occasions on rebel forces, killing 100 to 150 people. The United States is desperate for a quick and efficient resolution of this civil war, and is one of the major contributors in aid. The country providing food aid, medical supplies, emergency and basic health care, shelter materials, clean water, hygiene education and supplies, and other relief supplies. In fact, 41% of Syrian civilians have indicated in surveys and polls they would prefer American leadership as opposed to the Bashar-al-Assad regime.

### **Russia**

Russia has often used its political power in the United Nations security council to prevent and veto resolutions put forward to condemn the Syrian government. Syria and Russia have a very close relationship, both economically and politically, with Syria having purchased numerous amounts of arms from the Russian military. Russia has also invested heavily in Syria, with many firms having branched out to the nation. Russia also opposed any sanctions or intervention against the regime. Russian politicians have begun to acknowledge Bashar's potential downfall, saying "An opposition victory can't be excluded, unfortunately, but it's necessary to look at the facts: There is a trend for the government to progressively lose control over an increasing part of the territory," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, Moscow's Middle East envoy, said during hearings at a Kremlin advisory body.

## **Timeline of Events**

1925-6 - Nationalist agitation against French rule develops into a national uprising. French forces bombard Damascus.

1982 February - The revolt is suppressed by the military, whom rights organisations accuse of killing tens of thousands of civilians.

2000 June - Assad dies and is succeeded by his second son, Bashar.

2004 May - US imposes economic sanctions on Syria over what it calls its support for terrorism and failure to stop militants entering Iraq.

2006 September - Attack on the US embassy in Damascus. Four gunmen open fire and throw grenades. Three of them are killed, one is captured.

2011 December – Syrian Civil War begins

2012 February – Russia and China veto security council resolution to condemn Syrian government

2012 August – Security Council strongly condemns use of chemical weaponry in the country.

2013 August - Rebels and Western governments accuse pro-Assad forces of using chemical weapons in an attack that killed more than 300 people near Damascus. The Syrian government blames the rebels.

## Bibliography

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